



ALEXANDRIA:

WEDNESDAY MORNING, APRIL 24, 1861.

Col. Robert E. Lee, said by General Scott to be the best engineer officer in the United States Army, and to whom is due the brilliant result of the operations conducted by the American Army in the Valley of Mexico, during the war with that country, having resigned his office in the late United States Army, has returned to the bosom of his native State to offer to her, in this, her time of need, the homage of his unquestioned talent and genius. He arrived yesterday evening via the Central road from Gordonsville, and all along the route was cheered on his return. At the cars in this city his greeting was warm and enthusiastic. He was met by Judge John Robertson, Adjutant General Richardson, and other friends, and escorted to the Spotswood Hotel. Here there was an immense crowd of citizens congregated anxious to pay their respects, and after a brief retirement, he had to respond to their urgent entreaties by an appearance and a few remarks, in which he pledged himself to the performance of his duty and his whole duty to the land of his birth. Col. Lee's presence acted with magic influence on the citizens, who feel that in him they have secured indeed a prize of no ordinary magnitude. Col. Lee will no doubt be tendered a high command in the Virginia army. He is equal to any station that he could be called to.

If Seward and Caleb Smith and General Scott do not approve of the course and policy of the Administration, why do they act with, and participate in the measures adopted by the Cabinet? The peace of the country is disturbed—a great civil war is imminent—hostile forces from the different sections are collecting—and a terrible convulsion may ensue immediately. Those who, by executive action brought this state of things about, should not be countenanced or endorsed.

It is said that when the Ordinance of Secession was being signed by the members of the Virginia Convention, the deepest solemnity prevailed, and almost every eye was suffused with tears. Stout, manly hearts were breaking at the thought of being compelled to abandon the government constructed by Washington, Madison, and their illustrious compiers, under the special patronage of Virginia.

Gov. Letcher has verified the practical utility of discharging his duties, and after having received as much open and covert calumny as any man in the commonwealth, has simply "bided his time," and is now universally praised, and regarded as one of the best, most honest, most discreet, and most efficient Governors we have ever had.

A letter from the Hon. John M. Botts to the Secretary of the Interior of the United States is published in the Richmond Dispatch. Mr. Botts declares against the policy of the Administration, and urges upon the Cabinet a "race to hostilities," and the final recognition of the independence of the Southern Confederacy.

Arms, ammunition, shovels, &c., and some horses, were pressed into service, in Richmond, on Sunday, for the use of the State in defensive operations. Several cases of army revolvers at the Express office were taken. The owners took receipts, and made no objections.

The government troops at Washington, (volunteers) have been busy, under orders, for several days past, in taking possession of flour, &c., in the mills, stores, &c., in Georgetown. They have thus seized several thousand barrels.

The Administration have taken possession of the entire depot at Washington, and all the cars on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. No one now knows at what hour he can leave Washington, or when he can enter it.

The newly appointed Collector of the Port of Baltimore had not appeared on Monday to take possession of the office, and several of the other newly appointed Custom House officers have refused to accept their commissions.

Rev. Mr. Wheelwright, Presiding Elder of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and resident of Fredericksburg, has avowed his purpose of offering his services to Virginia. He is ready to take his hat and fall into rank. This Rev. gentleman received a military education at Lexington.

Many entirely erroneous statements and reports are made in the Northern papers about military affairs in this neighborhood.

They have in Lynchburg, a "Seceded Union pole," with the Virginia flag at the mast head.

The Morgantown Star (Morgantown county, Va.) reports a large meeting held there, at which resolutions were passed against Secession, and advocating a division of the State if the Ordinance be adopted. The Star further says, this feeling is deepening and extending in the West. Union candidates for Congress and the State Legislature are nominated in Morgantown. The Wheeling Intelligencer (Republican) also opposes Secession. What madness to talk about a Division of the State, at such a time as this. We do not believe the thought is harbored to any great extent.

Important Act of the Convention. The following resolution was adopted by the Convention last night, and the injunction of secrecy removed in relation thereto: Resolved: That it be earnestly recommended to the citizens of the several counties of this Commonwealth to promptly form and discipline companies of volunteers of their able bodied men; and to the county courts to levy or raise, by issuing bonds, a sufficient amount of money to equip and arm such volunteers when raised.

A Leaf from the Past. Among the many touching and instructive narratives with which Holy Writ abounds, we know of none more strikingly indicative of the frailty and imperfection of human nature and human associations than the separation of Abraham and Lot, kinsmen, companions, and friends. They were both men eminent for virtue and moral excellence, Abraham having been even described by the Almighty as his "friend," and Lot being one whose righteousness afterwards withstood even the general depravity of Sodom. These two persons, it is recorded, had both become great and prosperous, Abraham being rich in cattle and silver and gold, and Lot also possessing flocks and herds and tents. But the great distance which they had acquired was itself at last the cause of their separation. "And the land was not able to bear them, that they might dwell together; for their substance was great, so that they could not dwell together."

This separation did not arise from any animosity between the two friends. The sacred narrative goes on to say: "And there was a strife between the herdmen of Abraham's cattle and the herdmen of Lot's cattle; and the Canaanite and the Perizzite dwelled then in the land." (Among whom contention would have been very dangerous.) And Abraham said unto Lot: "Let there be no strife, I pray thee, between me and thee, and between my herdmen and thy herdmen, for we be brethren. Is not the whole land before thee? Separate thyself, I pray thee, from me. If thou wilt take the left hand, I will go to the right; or if thou depart to the right hand, then I will go to the left." Early in the history of our race this occurred, almost in the freshness of the bright morning of creation, man was exhibiting the same passion as with us in the hearty old age of the world. The patriarch and his kinsman, however, were above the intrigues which actuated their dependants, and the wise advice of Abraham prevented greater difficulties, and remains, not only as a monument of his own prudence and conciliatory spirit, but as a model for the initiation of succeeding generations.

Somewhat similar is the history of the two great sections of the United States. Bound together, like Abraham and Lot, by the ties of a common origin, companions like them in their pilgrimage, and trials, and like them pursuing through the arts of peace, until both had waxed rich and strong, a subject of estrangement has arisen from one of the chief elements of their commonwealth. Their was nothing in that subject which should necessarily create discord, but the political heresies, who tend their respective flocks to gratify their own evil passions, have made it a perpetual theme of contention, until at last the land seems "not able to bear them, that they might dwell together." The strife has gradually proceeded from bad to worse, and now, as in the days of Abraham, the Canaanite dwells in the land. If, therefore, the strife cannot otherwise be healed, and the herdmen cannot agree, then let the spirit of the patriarch be invoked, and let the Abraham of the South say to the Lot of the North: "Let there be no strife, I pray thee, between me and thee, and between my herdmen and thy herdmen, for we be brethren. Is not the whole land before thee? Separate thyself, I pray thee, from me."

We know it is a sad thing for brethren to part, but better part than live in eternal discord. That union which is without love, is but the iron fetter which binds the prisoner to his dungeon floor. We know that it is an humiliating thing to surrender the memories of ancient glory, and the brighter hopes of future greatness. But communities, as well as individuals, must often sacrifice their most cherished aspirations to secure some essential good. It is unfortunate which our country has run, instead of an indication of might, a power yet undeveloped, may be like a precious development of intellect in infancy, the herald of an early decline. It is mortifying to the vanity to give up the idea of a colossal Republic of two hundred millions of souls; its Northern border surrounded by a crown of polar ice, its Southern extremity girdled with tropic flowers; its flanks washed by two mighty oceans; its wealth, its power, its civilization, the wonder of the world. But this may be a dream of romance. We must look at man as he is, with the same passion as in the days of Abraham, and let society, which of human origin is a part of the human condition, before we have any right to expect that these States, composed of such discordant elements, will become consolidated in their union, instead of crumbling with the lapse of time. Perhaps our pride needs some such lesson as the overthrow of that great Republican Tower which we have expected to rise toward Heavens, until its summit reaches Heaven, and its shadow is cast over the whole earth. In a word, we say, let us abide together, if we can abide in love. If not, let us part in peace. The "whole land" is a mighty continent, is before us. And though neither section, when separated, will be as powerful as the whole, yet each may be sufficiently powerful for all the purposes of human happiness. Doubtless it is all earthly foresight it would have been more to the interest of Abraham and Lot to have remained together, yet it was after their separation that the Creator said to Abraham: "Lift up thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art, northward, southward, eastward and westward; for all the land which thou seest to thee will I give, and to thy seed forever. And I will make thy seed as the dust of the earth; so that if a man can number the dust of the earth, then shall thy seed also be numbered."—*Balt. American.*

THE BATTLE IN BALTIMORE. The battle of Friday, between the people and the Massachusetts troops, was more serious than at first supposed. The following is a list of the killed and wounded, as far as could be ascertained up to last night: **CITIZENS KILLED.**—John McLean, Robert W. Davis, Philip T. Miles, Wm. R. Clark, Michael Murphy, Patrick Griffith, James Carr, Francis Maloney, John McMahon, Sebastian Gies, William Mahoney. **CITIZENS WOUNDED.**—John Staub, slightly; S. Constant; George Coney, slightly; Patrick Griffin, severely; James Meyer, severely; F. N. Ward, severely; Wm. Reid, slightly. **SOLDIERS KILLED.**—Andrew Rollins, Geo. Wilson, and two others, names unknown. **SOLDIERS WOUNDED.**—James Keenan, Asa Needham, Private Coburn, Edward Hart, Sergeant Ames, Michael Green, H. W. Danforth, D. B. Tyler. Besides these it is said that some twenty-five were so badly wounded that after they reached Washington it was found necessary to place them under the care of surgeons. Policemen Staylor, who passed through the cars at Camden station, states that a large number had their heads bandaged and many of them died privately.

The several coroners of the city held inquests on the dead and returned verdicts in accordance with the occurrences of the day, except in the case of Mr. Robert W. Davis, who was shot in the gas works on Fawcett street, near the gas works.—*Balt. Sun.*

The Prisoners. We understand that the Naval officers, new prisoners in Richmond, were arrested in an attempt to blow up the United States Navy Yard at Portsmouth. We take it for granted that no prisoners will be given up until we learn whether Lincoln intends to regard the rules of civilized warfare in his treatment of Southern soldiers and privates.

Latest from Annapolis. ANNAPOLIS, April 21, noon.—The United States frigate Constitution and steamer Maryland are now anchored off the harbor.—Col. Butler has 1,500 of the 1,800 Massachusetts troops under his command, on board the Constitution. They are armed with Minnie muskets, cutlasses and revolvers. Four field pieces were on the Maryland's decks. Before the Constitution was towed out, it was apprehended she would ground. The officers of the Elkridge railroad disabled their engines, while the citizens were ready to take up the track in order to prevent Col. Butler from using it.

When the Constitution left her wharf, the gates of the yard were thrown open, and the citizens entered the yard, presenting a warlike appearance. Small boys were marching about with sabres and revolvers at their sides, and every face presented a solemn and revengeful cast.

The Constitution is commanded by Captain Rogers, of New York. Mr. H. Harrison, one of the professors, appeared in citizen's dress and will resign to-morrow. Lieutenants Buckner, Davidson and others, will resign on Monday. Twenty-two midshipmen resigned yesterday, and will leave for their homes on Tuesday.

The Governor's Merchant, and tonight his family will leave for his farm in Dorchester county.

This evening the officers of the Annapolis and Elk Ridge Railroad Company sent out a burthen train and took up the track for a considerable distance.

Capt. Rice, of the steamer Cecil, who left Annapolis at 11 o'clock yesterday morning, informs us that the steamer Maryland, with Massachusetts troops on board, was grounded on Greenberry's Point, and that another steamer, the Boston, schooner rigged, was lying in the harbor with troops on board all night. The latter, as the Cecil passed, moved her position, apparently reconnoitering the harbor, and came to anchor again.

Each steamer had on board 700 or 800 troops, many of whom were observed to be passing the time in playing cards on the deck.

We learn further from Dr. Claude, Jr., of Annapolis, who started from there at 5 P. M. yesterday, on horseback, and reached this city last night, that no troops had been landed there when he left, and that Gen. Butler, who commands the Massachusetts volunteers, had pledged himself not to land them unless he received positive orders to that effect from Washington.

Private dispatches were received in this city last night, at 8 o'clock, to the effect that the Northern troops from the steamer "Maryland" and "Boston," had landed at Annapolis without obstruction, and intended to march immediately to the Annapolis junction.

The citizens of the town and neighborhood were preparing to give them a guerrilla fight on their march. The Northern troops had taken horses for the purpose of transporting their artillery and baggage.

Maryland and the Troops for the Capitol. The following letter was addressed yesterday to Gov. Hicks, of Md., by the Secretary of State: DEPARTMENT OF STATE, April 22, 1861. His Excellency Thos. H. Hicks, Governor of Maryland:

SIR: I have had the honor to receive your communications of this morning, in which you inform me that you have left your duty to advise the President of the United States to order elsewhere the troops then off Annapolis, and also that no more may be sent through Maryland, and that you have further suggested that Lord Lyons be requested to act as mediator between the contending parties in our country to prevent the effusion of blood.

The President directs me to acknowledge the receipt of that communication, and to assure you that he has weighed the counsel which it contains with the respect which he habitually cherishes for the Chief Magistrate of the several States, and especially for yourself. He regrets, as deeply as any magistrate or citizen of the country can, that demonstrations against the safety of the United States, with extensive preparations for the effusion of blood, have made it his duty to call out the force to which you allude.

The force now sought to be brought through Maryland is intended for nothing but the defence of this capital. The President has necessarily confined the notice of the national highway which that force shall take in coming to the city to the Lieutenant General commanding the Army of the United States, who, like his only predecessor, is not less distinguished for his humanity than for his loyalty, patriotism, and distinguished public service.

The President instructs me to add that the national highway thus selected by the Lieutenant General has been chosen by him, upon consultation with prominent magistrates and citizens of Maryland, as the one which, while a route is absolutely necessary, is farthest removed from the populous cities of the State and with the expectation that it would therefore be the least objectionable one.

The President cannot but remember that there has been a time in the history of our country when a General in the American army, with forces designed for the defence of its Capital, was not unwelcome anywhere in the State of Maryland, and certainly not at Annapolis, then, as now, the Capital of that patriotic State, and then, also, one of the Capitals of the Union.

If eighty years could have obliterated all the other noble sentiments of that age in Maryland, the President would be hopeful, nevertheless, that there is one that would forever remain there and everywhere. That sentiment is that no domestic contention whatsoever, that may arise among the parties of this Republic, ought in any case to be referred to any foreign arbitration, least of all the arbitrament of any European monarchy.

I have the honor to be, with distinguished consideration, your Excellency's most obedient servant, WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

THE SEVENTH REGIMENT.—We have information from Annapolis stating that the Seventh (New York) Regiment, as landed there (and now doubtless marching for this city), consists of 991 rank and file, embracing 100 companies of recruits, and 100 companies of the Regiment was brought along. The delay in its appearance in this city is occasioned probably by the difficulty in procuring the means of transporting its baggage and that of the Massachusetts Regiment by which it is accompanied. The whole force that reached there on Sunday morning last, numbers nineteen hundred men. We apprehend that quite as many more relieving troops have since arrived there.—*Star of yesterday.*

MAJOR GENERAL OF THE VOLUNTEER FORCES OF VIRGINIA.—Governor Letcher has appointed Major Walter Gwynn to the office of Major General of the volunteer forces of Virginia. Major Gwynn is a graduate of West Point, an experienced and distinguished Virginian, and is peculiarly qualified, in high degree, the best qualities of head, heart, and nerve required at this moment in the commander of the military power of Virginia. The appointment, we predict, will give satisfaction and confidence to the people.—*Rich. Disp.*

More than a thousand volunteers have already been enrolled in Richmond.

Captures of the Norfolk Navy Yard. We take the following from the Norfolk Day Book:

On Saturday and Sunday the greatest excitement prevailed in the city. Troops were hurrying to and fro, and every one anxious to know what was to be done, but unable to obtain the desired information. The rumor was that the Cumberland was about to sail from the Navy yard, and preparations were made to prevent her.

At 12 o'clock an officer came from the yard bearing a flag of truce and was conducted to Gen. Butler's Headquarters at the Atlantic Hotel, where a consultation was held which resulted in a promise from the commandant of the yard, Gen. Manley, that none of the vessels should be removed nor a shot fired except in self-defence. This quieted the excitement; but it was renewed at a later hour, when it was ascertained that the Germantown and Merrimack had been sent out, and that the heavy shears on the wharf at which the G. was lying had been cut away and allowed to fall midships across her decks, carrying away the main topmasts and yards. It was also perceived that the men were busily engaged in disarming and drawing overboard small arms and small arms, &c., and other property, and boats were constantly passing between the Pennsylvania, Cumberland, and other vessels.

The assurance of the Commandant, given by his officer at the time of the interview, however, tended to allay the apprehension of an immediate collision. But the continued stirring movements at the yard, soon rendered it certain that it was the intention of Manley to destroy all the buildings and other property there—and it was therefore with not much surprise that, about midnight, after two or three slight explosions, the light of a serious conflagration was observed at the yard. The fire, which commenced on the board side of the Cumberland, spread rapidly, and the flames, which the demon-work of destruction was extended to the immense ship houses known as A and B, (the former containing the entire frame of the New York, 74, which had been on the stocks unfinished, for some thirty-eight years), and also to the long ranges of the two story offices and stores on each side of the main gate of the yard. The flames and heat from this tremendous mass of burning material, was set by a southwest wind directly towards the line of vessels moored on the edge of the channel opposite the yard, and nearly all of these, too, were speedily enveloped in flames.

The scene at this time was grand and terrible beyond description. The roar of the conflagration was loud enough to be heard at three or four miles distance—and to this were added occasional discharges from the heavy guns of the old "Pennsylvania," ship of the line, as they became successively heated. These guns, it is asserted, were double-shotted and directed at different parts of the yard for the purpose of ensuring its complete demolition. This, however, is certain—that if all her guns had been thus prepared and directed, the "harbor district" could not have been more completely cleared of its appurtenances.

As soon as the torch had been successfully applied to the ship houses, the Pawnee, which had been kept on night steam from the moment of her arrival until midnight on Saturday, was put in motion, and taking the Cumberland in tow, retreated down the harbor out of the reach of danger—freighted with a great portion of valuable munitions, &c., from the yard, and the Commandant and other officers who had won for themselves the ignominious distinction of destroying deeds in accomplishing such a vain work. The ships proceeded as far down the harbor as the barracks, where the Cumberland was left at anchor, and the Pawnee continued on to Fort Monroe.

THE PROPERTY DESTROYED. As far as we could judge from a cursory observation, the property destroyed comprised the ship houses, and contained the frame of buildings on the north line of the yard, (except the Commodore's and Commander's residences, which are unharmed), the old marine barracks and one of two work-shops, the immense living sheds, the ships Pennsylvania, Merrimack, Raritan, Columbia, and brig Germantown—burnt to the water's edge; the ship Commodore, broken and sunk; the Plymouth, rammed and sunk even with her deck; and a vast amount of small arms, chronometers, and valuable engines and machinery in the Ordnance and other shops, broken up and rendered utterly useless.

Apparatus for the yard, it was intended to explode the admiralty and useful work, by blowing up the gates, but from some cause this was not done, and the dock was found to be altogether a sham.

We cannot bring ourselves to believe that any officer of a Navy, distinguished hitherto by a high sense of honor and chivalrous courage, could willingly consent to such an ignominious mode of warfare as this.

Latest from the North. There was great excitement in Philadelphia, New York and Boston in consequence of the military movements South.

Great fears were entertained at Chambersburg, Pa., of an attack on that place by troops from Maryland and Virginia. Hundreds of troops from Maryland, including 600 United States troops from Carlisle, were marching to its defence.

The Pennsylvania troops now at Harrisburg are not to leave there for several days. It appears that those which marched into Maryland were to have been followed by 1,000 more, and also Sherman's battery.

A large meeting was held in Boston on Sunday, when a regiment was organized by Fletcher Webster.

Ex-President Pierce had made a speech at Concord, N. H., in favor of the general government.

At New York, the steamers Matinele, Marion, James Edgar, Roseville, Parkersburg, Florida, Alabama and Argonne had been chartered by the government to transport troops. The Chesapeake is to take 2500 men, and the Matinele 600 marines to Norfolk. The Baltic conveys the twelfth regiment. The Harriet Lane was to accompany some of these steamers. The Chesapeake sailed on Saturday, but returned.

The residence of Gen. Cadwallader, at Magnolia Station, is reported to have been burned, and also two houses in Kent county, Md., the latter perpetrated by slaves.

The city of Wilmington, Del., has appropriated \$8,000 for military purposes. All the bridges from the Susquehanna to Philadelphia are guarded.

A dispatch received in Philadelphia from Wheeling says, some of the citizens were guarding the Cus on House there to prevent Gov. Letcher from seizing it.

Major Anderson has left New York for Washington.

Judge Crain, of Charles county, reached Baltimore about 12 o'clock on Monday night, by private conveyance, from Havre de Grace. He had been to Philadelphia and New York, and reported the people as very much exasperated and vindictive against the South, and particularly against Baltimore.

THE LATEST NEWS. There was a comparative lull in the excitement yesterday. The streets continued quiet, and the military and other bodies of armed men were moving about; the work of enrollment and drill went vigorously forward; the crowds dispersed past events, and speculated on what was to come; but in the absence of any new act of war, the day might be called, in comparison with Sunday, almost dull. The Board of Police have directed the enforcement of stringent precautions for the preservation of the peace of the city. Parents are requested to keep their minor children at home after 6 o'clock in the evening; hands of music are prohibited from parading the streets, or playing at any point, whereby a crowd may be collected, and all intoxicated persons are to be promptly arrested.

The Pennsylvania troops, whose presence near Cockeysville so excited the war spirit of our people on Sunday, started on their return to wards Harrisburg yesterday afternoon. Early in the morning they moved from their original camp over towards the railroad, and as at the latest advice the trains to take them back were momentarily expected, it is probable that by this time they are within the limits of Pennsylvania.

The Governor of Maryland has issued his proclamation calling the Legislature to meet in extra session at Annapolis, on Friday next, 25th inst. In an election for members of the House of Delegates will be held in this city on to-morrow, to supply the vacancies occasioned by the ousting of the delegation from this city at the last session.—The Constitution requires that ten days' notice of an extra session, and the Code requires three weeks notice to be given of all special elections for Federal, State, or Municipal officers, but *inter arma silent leges*. The Sheriff, by authority of the warrant of the Speaker of the House, has issued notice of the election, and the Board of Police have directed the necessary arrangements for the opening of the polls, &c.

A General Order, issued by Lieut. Gen. Scott, created some renewal of the excitement. It declares the railroad from Philadelphia to Washington a military road, and directs the stationing of troops at points along the route, to protect the railroads, stations, telegraph lines, &c. The purpose of this order conflicts with the understanding made by the President and his advisers with Mayor Brown. The order, however, is dated on Friday last, and may have been modified by the events occurring since then.

We have brief and vague accounts of the movements of the Northern troops at Annapolis. Eighteen hundred men, supposed a Massachusetts regiment and the New York Seventh Regiment, had landed there, and were moving overland towards Washington. Gov. Hicks had ordered resistance to the advance, and troops were collecting from all parts of the adjacent country to operate against them. They would have to march some thirty miles through a hostile country to reach Washington.

The latest intelligence from Pensacola, received by way of New Orleans, is to Monday last. At that time it was not expected that any attack would be made upon Fort Pickens for the next ten days. Fort Pickens had been reinforced by all the men that could be spared from the fleet. The United States troops were busily engaged in constructing works on Santa Rosa Island.

Great excitement exists both in Philadelphia and New York. Large bodies of troops were concentrating in both cities, and also at Harrisburg. Four of the New York volunteer regiments left that city yesterday morning in steam transports, under convoy of the Harriet Lane. Their destination is no doubt Washington, via the Potomac.—*Balt. American.*

WASHINGTON ITEMS. RE-IGNITIONS IN THE INTERIOR DEPARTMENT.—The following are among the resignations Thursday in this Department: **Consular Bureau.**—W. B. Gulick, N. C., Chief Clerk, (salary \$2,000 per annum); Hamilton, Ky.; W. M. Moore, Va.; P. T. Tolson, D. C.; C. H. Jackson, N. C.; John West, Va.; Jno. M. Coyle, D. C.; P. H. Hale, New Mexico;—D. J. Va.; R. S. Lawrence, N. C.;—Sengstack, Va.; Major Sawyer, Va.; A. Baker, New Mexico; W. Flaherty, D. C.

Patent Office.—D. R. Bell, N. C.; Benjamin Dorsey, Md.; B. F. Strider, (first-class, 1,200 clerks); and M. Sands Page, Md.; resigned yesterday.

Land Office.—E. P. Higginson, Va.; R. Wilson, Minn.; J. H. Clark, Ky.; N. H. Starbuck, Ohio; (second class, 51,400 clerks); resigned yesterday.

Post Office Bureau.—J. H. Woodford, Md.; W. S. Shaler, Va.; F. F. Fere, D. C.; Col. H. M. Gordon, Va.; W. H. Weidley, Va.; James E. Stewart, Va.; W. W. Sperry, Va.; James Morris, Md.

ARMY OFFICERS RESIGNED.—Gen. J. Joseph E. Johnston, Quartermaster General, C. A. Robt. E. Lee, 1st Cavalry, Brevet Col. Chas. A. May, Capt. W. L. Cabell, Assistant Quartermaster, Lt. J. B. Hood, 2d Cavalry, Lieut. G. B. Casby, 2d Cavalry, Lieut. L. L. Loma, 1st Cavalry, Brevet, Lieut. Col. John B. Magruder, 1st Artillery, Lieut. C. B. Anderson, 2d Dragoons, Capt. E. E. McLean, Assistant Quartermaster, Lieut. J. Marmaduke, 7th Infantry, Capt. Sam Jones, 1st Artillery, Lieut. Colonel J. H. Winder, 3d Artillery, Lieut. W. P. Smith, Topographical Engineer, Lieut. John S. Saunders, Ordnance Department, Asst. Surgeon Chas. P. Smith, have resigned in the course of the last two or three days.

TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT.—Anthony McLean, R. Lee Brown, and J. G. Alderman, of Va., the first a 4th class, and the two latter 2d class clerks in the Treasury's Office; A. L. Edwards, of Tennessee, a 2d-class clerk in the First Comptroller's Office; William A. Rind, Jr., a 2d-class clerk in the Third Auditor's Office; John Green, a 1st-class clerk in the Sixth Auditor's Office; Wm. B. Daniels, a 1st-class clerk in the Third Auditor's Office; W. W. Tyler, a 2d-class clerk in the Sixth Auditor's Office; R. B. Norment, a 2d-class clerk in the Third Auditor's Office; J. Hall Moore, a 2d-class clerk in the Sixth Auditor's Office, have resigned.

GENERAL POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT.—Dr. Hunter, of Va., 3d-class; J. L. Lancaster D. C., 4th-class clerk; and W. A. Norris, N. H., 2d-class clerk in the General Post Office, have resigned. Dr. Snowden, of Md., has been removed.

SIXTH AUDITOR'S OFFICE.—Robert Cawthorn, of Va., 2d-class clerk in the Sixth Auditor's Office, has resigned.

Capt. C. W. C. Dunnington, Chief of the Capitol Police, resigned his position yesterday, to take effect to-day.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF VIRGINIA. The following gentlemen have been appointed an Advisory Council of the Governor of Virginia: Judge John F. Allen, of the Court of Appeals; Col. F. H. Smith, of the Virginia Military Institute; Lieut. M. F. Maury, late of the United States Navy. In a multitude of such councillors there is safety to the State. These distinguished gentlemen have accepted the places tendered them, and are now in Richmond acting with great efficiency in planning for the welfare of the State.

HONES FOR SHARPENING SEWING MACHINES.—An improved style, for sale at [?] [?]

MEXICAN GUANO, of very superior quality, for sale by WM. H. FOWLE & SON, No. 1 South Wharf.

PLASTER.—Fresh ground Plaster, for sale by J. N. HARPER & CO.

INTERVIEW WITH THE PRESIDENT.—We learn that a delegation from five of the Young Men's Christian Associations of Baltimore consisting of six members of each, yesterday proceeded to Washington for an interview with the President, the purpose being to intercede with him in behalf of a peaceful policy, and to entreat him not to pass troops through Baltimore or Maryland. Rev. Dr. Fuller, of the Baptist Church, accompanied the party, by invitation, as chairman, and the conversation was conducted mainly between him and Mr. Lincoln, and was not heard entire by all the members of the delegation.

Our informant, however, vouches for what we now write. He states that upon the introduction they received very cordially by Mr. Lincoln—a sort of rude familiarity of manner—and the conversation opened by Dr. Fuller seeking to impress upon Mr. Lincoln the vast responsibility of the position he occupied, and that upon him depended the issues of peace or war—on one hand a terrible, fratricidal conflict, and on the other a terrible, but not less terrible, war.

"But," said Mr. Lincoln, "what am I to do?" "Why, sir, let the country know that you are disposed to recognize the independence of the Southern States. I say nothing of secession, recognize the fact that they have formed a government of their own, that they will never be united again with the North, and peace will instantly take the place of anarchy and suspense, and war may be averted."

"And what is to become of the revenue?" "I shall have no government—no revenue." Dr. Fuller expressed the opinion that the Northern States would constitute an imposing government, and furnish revenue, but our informant could not follow the exact turn of remark.

The conversation turning upon the passage of troops through Maryland, Dr. Fuller expressed very earnestly the hope that no more would be ordered over the soil of the State. He remarked that Maryland had shed her blood freely in the war of independence, she was the first to move for the adoption of the constitution in that had only yielded her clinging attachment to the Union when the blood of her citizens had been shed by strangers on their way to a conflict with her sisters at the South.

Mr. Lincoln insisted that he wanted the troops only for the defence of the capital not for the invasion of the Southern States. "And," he said, "I must have the troops, and mathematically the necessity exists that they should come through Maryland. They can't crawl under the earth, and they can't fly over it, and mathematically they must come across it. Why, sir, those Carolinians are now crossing Virginia to come here and hang me, and what can I do?"

In some allusion to the importance of a peace policy, Mr. Lincoln remarked that if he adopted it under the circumstance that "would be no Washington in that, no Jackson in that, no Spunk in that."

Dr. Fuller hoped that Mr. Lincoln would not allow "spunk" to override patriotism. Mr. Lincoln doubted if he or Congress could recognize the Southern Confederacy. [And we suspect that such a Congress as the next will be, with all the Southern States out of it, is not likely to recognize it.] With regard to the government, he said, "I must run the machine as he found it." And in reference to passing troops through Baltimore or Maryland he said, "Now, sir, if you won't hit me, I won't hit you."

As the delegations were leaving, Mr. Lincoln said to one or two of the young men, "I'll tell you a story. You had heard of the Irishman, who, when a fellow was cutting his throat with a blunt razor, complained that he haggled it. Now if I can't have troops direct through Maryland, and must march around out-of-the-way territory, I shall be haggled."

The delegation, on leaving "the presence," conferred together, and agreed on the hopelessness of their errand and the sad prospect of any good thing from such a source, and the exclamation was actually made, "God have mercy on us, when the government is placed in the hands of a man like this!"—*Baltimore Sun.*

VIRGINIA NEWS. A number of the citizens of Richmond have subscribed \$500 each for the relief of the families of those volunteers of the city who give their services to the State, but whose families are dependent on their personal exertions. It is important, however, that a regular system should be adopted for the accomplishment and regulation of this valuable object.

The clergymen of the Episcopal Churches in Virginia, unit in their prayers for the "President of the United States," and instead thereof, say "the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, and all others in authority."

On Friday last, the residence of Mr. Joseph Arcler, in Chesterfield, situated about thirty miles from Richmond, was destroyed by fire, having become ignited accidentally from the chimney.

Ten citizens of Lynchburg have contributed \$500 each to aid the volunteer companies there. The Banks and the Council have aided in the good work. Near \$200,000 will be raised.

The State authorities seized 500 Army revolvers, belonging to Williams, Peters &